

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00676 281043Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 SAM-01 /072 W  
----- 115578

R 280957Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4600

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0676

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP, LU (VOUEL, RAYMOND)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0656

1. FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND SUGGESTED  
POINTS OF DISCUSSION ARE PROVIDED IN THE EVENT THE  
DEPARTMENT CAN ARRANGE HIGH-LEVEL USG CONTACTS FOR  
VICE-PRESIDENT VOUEL.

2. RAYMOND VOUEL (PRONOUNCED "VOO-ELLE" WITH EMPHASIS  
ON THE SECOND SYLLABLE) WAS BORN IN 1923 IN THE STEEL-  
PRODUCING TOWN OF RUMELANGE, LUXEMBOURG. HE ATTENDED  
TECHNICAL HIGHSCHOOL BUT HAS NO UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.  
DRAFTED INTO THE GERMAN WEHRMACHT IN WORLD WAR TWO,  
HE ESCAPED TO JOIN THE RESISTANCE AND SERVED AS AN  
INTERPRETER FOR THE U.S. ARMY IN THE BATTLE OF THE  
BULGE. AFTER THE WAR HE BECAME A JOURNALIST FOR THE  
SOCIALIST DAILY "TAGEBLATT" AND IN 1964 WAS ELECTED A SOCIALIST  
DEPUTY. HE ALSO WORKED VARIOUSLY AS A HOSPITAL  
ADMINISTRATOR, INSURANCE EXECUTIVE AND MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR  
BUT HIS CAREER HAS BEEN PRIMARILY BASED ON PARTY AND  
GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. RISING THROUGH PARTY RANKS ON  
COMPETENCE RATHER THAN CHARISMA, HE BECAME DE FACTO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00676 281043Z

HEAD OF HIS PARTY AND, IN MAY 1974, WAS NAMED VICE-

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST-LIBERAL COALITION GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE. DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, HE WILL PRESIDE OVER THE FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, A RESPONSIBILITY HE APPROACHES WITH SOME TREPIDATION BECAUSE OF HIS BURDENSOME DUAL ROLE WITHIN THE GOL AND HIS MEAGER STAFF.

3. DIVORCED, SOMEWHAT DIFFIDENT, VOUEL IS QUITE SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM. HE OFTEN APPEARS CHRONICALLY TIRED, DRINKS AND SMOKES FAIRLY HEAVILY, AND IS KNOWN TO FEEL OVER-BURDENED WITH WORK AND SLIGHTLY RESENTFUL OF PRIME MINISTER THORN'S MORE GLAMOUROUS AND PERIPATETIC INTERNATIONAL ROLE. VOUEL APPRECIATES EMBASSY ATTENTION AND IS BASICALLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.; HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT HESITATE TO CRITICIZE U.S. FOREIGN OR ECONOMIC POLICIES WHEN HE DISAGREES. HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A NON-DOCTRINAIRE MODERATE, WHICH WE REGARD AS AN ACCURATE CHARACTERIZATION. HE HAS DEVELOPED GOOD RELATIONS WITH LUXEMBOURG AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HERE -- WHO AT FIRST WERE LEERY BECAUSE OF HIS SOCIALIST LABEL -- AND HAS MADE A GENUINE EFFORT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR PLEAS THAT HE MOVE THE SOCIALIST REFORM PROGRAM AT AN ECONOMICALLY REALISTIC PACE. WHILE NOT A TRAINED ECONOMIST, VOUEL IS REGARDED AS A HARD WORKER WHO MASTERS HIS BRIEFS AND IS GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED ON COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES.

4. VOUEL SPEAKS ENGLISH WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

5. SUGGESTED POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- A. CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN LUXEMBOURG AND EC
  - B. ADEQUACY OF ANTI-RECESSION MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY EC COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY GERMANY AND FRANCE
  - C. ANY SPECIAL FOCUS FORESEEN FOR NEXT EC FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCILS
  - D. IMF ISSUES AS WELL AS BIG FIVE ECONOMIC SUMMIT PROPOSED BY FRANCE
  - E. IEA'S EFFECTIVENESS AND OUTLOOK FOR PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE
- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00676 281043Z

F. PROSPECTS FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION AND MORE GENERALLY DC-LDC DIALOGUE RE "NEW ECONOMIC ORDER". PHILLIPS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LUXEMB00676  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750298-0267  
**From:** LUXEMBOURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750810/aaaaaiac.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LUXEMBOURG 656  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchandr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by buchandr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT TO WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** OVIP, LU, (VOUEL, RAYMOND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006